Texas Providers Webinar Highlights – December 21, 2021

Read below for topics covered or view the underlined full recording for detailed information.

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

- On December 16th, CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky endorsed ACIP's recommendation of a **preference for the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines over the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine for all adults**. With this recommendation, it is important that all providers maintain adequate stock levels of Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines to give initial shots and booster doses to all eligible individuals. DSHS stresses that all COVID vaccines have proven effective against the spread of the virus; please continue to provide Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine to those who specifically request it.

- FDA has approved a **shelf-life extension** for **Pfizer Pediatric vaccine (orange cap)** and the soon to be available **Adol/Adult Tris (gray cap).** Originally, the expiration date was 6 months from the manufacture date. The expiration date for Pfizer orange and gray cap vaccine has now been **extended to 9 months (while held at ultra-low temperature frozen).** This approval takes effect immediately. The extension applies to frozen (ultra-low temperature) inventories only. Review the Pfizer orange and gray cap COVID-19 vaccine Fact Sheets for a table of updated expiry dates and storage guidelines.

Product Ordering Updates

- **Pfizer COVID-19 purple cap vaccine vials will be replaced with Pfizer COVID-19 gray cap vaccine vials**. Starting Thursday, December 23rd, Pfizer COVID-19 gray cap vaccine will be available for ordering in VAOS. Providers may place full pack size orders (300-dose packs) and less than full pack size orders (6 -72 doses). Orders of less than 300 doses must be placed in multiples of 6 doses, since each vial contains 6 doses. Providers should continue to use the purple cap vaccine they have on hand and should begin placing orders for the gray cap formulation once they have less than a one-month supply of purple cap vaccine. To avoid errors while both products are in circulation, providers should not use both formulations at the same time.

- Due to the upcoming holidays, **deliveries of COVID-19 vaccines will be suspended from Thursday, December 23rd through Monday, December 27th.** Orders placed after 5pm on Friday, December 17th will be delivered starting Tuesday, December 28th in the order in which they were received.

Clinical Guidance

- Review the webinar presentation slides for details on product packaging (thermal shippers) and for dose preparation and storage and timing considerations for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine (gray cap).

ImmTrac2: Entering COVID-19 Immunizations Online

- Ensure you are reporting COVID-19 vaccine administered doses into the Texas Immunization Registry, ImmTrac2 using the proper trade names and dose descriptions (full vs. half).

- To report vaccine administered at a different facility/organization, providers may use ImmTrac2's "Add Historical Imms" feature.

Provider Resources:

- COVID-19 Vaccine Management Resources (training and support materials)
- ImmTrac2 User Training Site
- ImmTrac2 Forms and Documents
- COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Enrollment Information
- CDC Clinical Considerations for or Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines
- DSHS Provider Help Desk: (833) 832-7068, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday; Email: COVID19VacEnroll@dshs.texas.gov

Live Q&A:

Below are a sample of the questions DSHS subject matter experts answered during the 12/21 webinar's live Q&A session.

- What are the guidelines around administering COVID-19 booster doses to clients who received their primary series outside the U.S. with a vaccine that is not approved within the U.S.?

- How long must an individual who is immunocompromised wait after receiving an additional dose to receive a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine?

- When reporting vaccine waste in VAOS, should we input the number of doses wasted or the number of doses successfully pulled in the "quantity consumed" field?